

# The Antrim *Limrik*

DECEMBER 1994

*For, by and about the people of Antrim*

VOLUME 4, NUMBER 1

## From the Selectmen

It is hard to believe that another year is about to end and it is time to start planning for the next. With that in mind however, here are some dates that we hope you will keep in mind relative to planning for 1995.

### **January 9, 1995 - Monday**

Public Hearing on proposed budget. After review during December with the various Town departments a tentative budget will be prepared and available for discussion on this date. Your ideas reactions, comments on the proposal are definitely wanted.

### **January 25 to February 3, 1995**

The period in which to file for the various elective offices that will be open. These will be:

*Selectmen* - three year term

*Trustees of Trust Fund* - three year term

*Sewer and Water Commission* - three year term

*Library Trustee* - three year term (two positions)

*Planning Board* - three year term (two positions)

*School Board* - three year term

### **February 7, 1995 - Tuesday**

Last day for submission of an article to be included on Town Meeting warrant. This must be signed by 25 or more voters.

### **February 13, 1995 - Monday**

Public Meeting for presentation of budget and warrant articles to be voted on at Town meeting.

### **March 14, 1995 - Tuesday**

Town Elections

### **March 16, 1995 - Thursday**

Town Meeting.

We hope that as many citizens as possible will be involved in setting goals and priorities for 1995.

Philip T. Dwight  
for the Board of Selectmen

## *First Lighting*

Antrim's fifth "First Lighting" will be at Touchwood Square on Thursday, December 8th. At 5:30 pm the town tree will have its first lighting with John Robertson as the emcee. The winners of the window murals will be announced. The Great Brook Carolers will sing. Santa will arrive at 5:50pm, bringing candy canes. Besides the large pole candles on Main and Concord Streets, he will see our decorated bandstand and bridge. The lighted town hall tower murals will shine down on all.

Four large wreaths, made by Woman's Club members under the direction of Nancy Lovell and Janet MacLachlan, will hang on the front doors of the town building. The window boxes will be filled with red and green by Garden Club members. Great Brook art classes will make large murals for the town hall windows as a contest. The winners will be given a cash prize, funded by the Garden Club, to be used for a celebration. See you at the festivities!

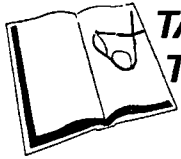
## Limericks for the Antrim Limrik

When the tax bills arrived - oh, my word,  
Almost everyone cried, It's absurd!  
But a political louse  
Said "Shut up, sell your house,  
And you'll find you're as free as a bird."

Readers are invited to submit limericks on Antrim-relevant topics. They may be mailed to the LIMRIK at PO Box 30, Antrim NH 03440, or left at Tuttle Library, c/o the LIMRIK.

## The Pumpkin Master

Once again our Pumpkin Master, Carlton Behlman, landed a prize at the Rindge County Fair for his enormous pumpkin. Mr. Behlman took second prize in the weight class division. His Atlantic Giant Pumpkin weighed in at 345 lbs. More of us than we know may have had the pleasure of looking at this heavy-weight champion. At the Pumpkin festival in Keene, Mr. Behlman's pumpkin was the biggest one, sitting up on the very top scaffolding, a crowning glory for those four thousand-plus pumpkins! Congratulations to Mr. Behlman!



## TALES from TUTTLE LIBRARY

The Library is pleased to announce that it now has a new computer, paid for in part by Federal funds. We are one of 13 libraries in the State to receive these funds. This new computer will improve our inter-library loan program and enable us to deal more efficiently with reference requests.

On December 12, 3:30-4:30pm, there will be a Christmas Craft workshop, to help children (ages 6-14) create family gifts, ornaments, gift wrapping, etc. Light refreshments will be provided.

On December 19 at 10am there will be a Christmas *itty Bitty Story Hour* for the 3-5 yr olds.

Christmas gift idea: The Library is selling sturdy, attractive tote bags at \$10 each - perfect for carrying books.

A grateful patron has kindly given the Library a VCR but, alas, we do not own a TV set. Is there another grateful patron out there who would like to donate a used, color TV set? We have someone to make repairs if necessary.

Happy Holidays to all.

### *Jim Rymes Donating Main Street Property to Antrim*

**Aiken House, built in 1806 by James Aiken Jr., the residence at the corner of Main and Aiken Streets next door to Tuttle Library, has been purchased by Jim Rymes with the generous intention of donating it to Antrim next autumn. A committee co-chaired by Nina Harding and Pam Bagloe has been formed to develop recommendations for its use as well as to write a proposal for the March Town Meeting - when a vote to accept the gift will be required since there will be responsibility for its maintenance or, should it be so decided, for having it taken down.**

**Town ownership of the property could be of great importance - to the Library for a badly-needed parking facility and book storage; to the Historical Society for exhibit and storage space; to the Antrim Players for costume-storage space; to organizations such as the Woman's Club for committee meetings, etc.**

*Please see David Hurlin's article about Aiken House elsewhere in this issue.*

### **Chamber of Commerce Update** 588-2888 or 588-2265

The deadline for registration of membership for the 1995 year has been set for December 31, 1994. Applications for membership were sent to all of our current members; if you are new to us please call 588-2265 for more information. The dues remain at \$50.00, and become due at this time. We understand that this is a tough time of year financially for many of us, but we encourage all interested to become involved. For your convenience feel free to contact treasurer Bob Wilson, to arrange a payment schedule. The deadline has been moved up to allow the board ample time to coordinate the printing of the 1995 Chamber Directories, and have them available for distribution earlier into the year. The membership application contains informa-

tion on your listing for the directory. Please be sure that you fill this section out exactly as you wish it to appear in the directory.

The 3rd Annual Christmas Decorating Contest will be sponsored by A.C.C. this year. The contest is open to all residents, and businesses in Antrim. Registration forms can be obtained by calling Mari at 588-2265, and may also be picked up at many of our member businesses downtown. Please look for our displays. Judging will take place of all entries on December 17th and 18th, and prizes will be awarded on Monday, December 19th. For more information call Mari at the number listed above.

We wish all a happy Holiday season.

### **Chamber of Commerce Spotlight**

#### ***The Christmas Tree Farm***

**Madeline L. Dusky-Popa,  
Owner \* 588-3145 \***

**RR2, Box 54, Antrim, NH 03440**

**\* Located 1.8 miles north of  
Antrim on Rte 202**

For a Christmas to remember visit the Christmas Tree Farm, featuring locally grown fresh cut trees (while our stock is maturing). Come cut your own trees, and pick out a balsam wreath. Complimentary hot chocolate, and homemade cookies by the Cookie lady. Family pictures in Santa's sleigh (bring your own camera). Santa's elves will be available for tours of the tree farm for pre-schoolers and grade classes by appointment.

## Antrim Woman's Club

The Antrim Woman's Club offers scholarship assistance for an Antrim or Bennington student enrolled in a post-secondary school. For an application, contact Mrs. Virginia M. Young, 3 Pierce Hill Road, Bennington NH 03442, tel. 588-6624. The deadline for application return is December 31, 1994.

### Schedule of meetings:

12/3 12:30pm, Maplehurst Inn, Lunch. "Christmas Festivities" with Beth Merrill and Chris Platt.

1/10 "Painting the Panels for Town Hall," by Gif Russell. Hostess Doris Bryer.

2/14 "Sharing Our Family Treasures," member participation. Hostess Martha Brown.

3/14 "Usual and Unusual Grocery Products," by Kurt Oesch, Director of Produce Operations, Associate Grocers. Hostess Trudy Oesch.

## Antrim Garden Club

Monday, December 12 at 12 noon there will be a Christmas Fun Party, a Pot Luck Luncheon and Exchange of Gifts, along with the showing of a video of last summer's Main St. Celebration. At the home of Evelyn Perry.

Monday, May 22 will be the first meeting of the club year. The program is to be announced.

## Lion's Club News

**Christmas Trees** - Again the Antrim-Bennington Lions' Club will be holding their annual Tree sale. Trees will be available at the Tenney Farm, located on Rte. 202S in Antrim. Trees will be available on Saturdays and Sundays during the month of December.

**Operation Santa** --The Lions' Club is sponsoring the Operation Santa this year. Cards will be available at the Peterborough Savings Bank's Antrim office in early December. The community's support is greatly appreciated.

**Food Raffle** -- We are participating in a state-wide "Lions' Food Raffle."

# about town

There are a total of 23 prizes, ranging from \$1000 to \$100. The prizes are redeemable wherever you shop! Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5. The drawing will be held on 2/12/95. Contact any Lions' Club member for tickets or call President Rick Swan at 588-2820.

## Monadnock Music

Music lovers can help support Monadnock Music and do Christmas shopping the easy way by buying an MM Calendar. Price is \$20 but you might get it all back and then some if your name comes up in the daily drawing for cash prizes.

Available locally from MM Town Chairman Evelyn Perry 588-2113.

## Antrim Grange

Antrim Grange recently held election of officers for 1995. Elected were Master, Bob Varnum; Overseer, Scott Davis; Lecturer, Beth Merrill; Steward, Meagan Slater; Assistant Steward, Carryl Davis; Lady Assistant Steward, Missy Landry; Chaplain, Dona Slater; Treasurer, Arthur Merrill; Secretary, Arthur Merrill, Jr.

Many members attended the recent session of the N.H. State Grange held in Concord. Carryl Davis is the 1995 State Grange Prince, and will represent N.H. at National Grange session in Peoria, Illinois in November.

Beth Merrill was elected Lady Assistant Steward of the N.H. State Grange, Arthur Merrill, Jr. is the Chairman of a State Grange Task Force, and Carryl Davis is a Junior Deputy. The 1995 program theme is *Grange: Window of Opportunity for Families*. The Grange is the #1 rural family organization, and as such the Grange offers many different programs and contests for all members of the family. Grange membership is open to everyone aged 14 and up.

The Grange is undertaking a membership drive, with hopes of increasing membership in the local Grange, and to assist in the upkeep of

the Grange Hall. The Hall, at Antrim Center, is the original Town Meeting House in Antrim. Antrim Grange #98 presently meets on the first and third Wednesdays at 7:30pm.

More information about the Grange can be obtained by calling Beth or Arthur Merrill at 588-6615.

## Neither Rain, Nor Snow...

The holiday season is just around the corner. Processing and delivering the mail is our job, but there are some things our customers can do to help ensure packages and letters are handled effectively.

One simple thing people can do is mail early in the season; by December 1st in the continental US and even earlier outside the country. In addition to mailing early, please use complete addressing: (recipient's full name, house number, street name or PO Box #, apt.#, etc.). The last line of the address is for the town or city, state and zip, and be sure to place your return address in the upper left-hand corner. It is also a good idea to put a slip of paper inside the package with the address of where the package is going along with a list of contents. If these tips are followed your holiday mail will be handled effectively by automated machinery and postal workers. Here are some additional pointers: Be sure parcels are packed with bubble wrap or paper. Padded bags are good for smaller items and are for sale at the PO. Don't over wrap: use a basic box and remove any old labels. Please DO NOT use string or wrapping paper, but do use re-inforced tape. Avoid smudges by addressing with waterproof ink. I suggest insurance for packages. Irreplaceable items or cash should be sent by registered mail. For those last minute items consider Express Mail (automatically insured) and delivered ON holidays including Christmas. Feel free to call on me with questions at 588-2614. Happy Holidays from all of us at your PO in Antrim, NH.

Glenn St. Clair, Postmaster

## Church News

### **Antrim Baptist Church**

Sunday School 9:30am

Worship 10:30am

Weekly Bible Study Wed, 6:30pm

Dr. Robert Williams is serving as Interim Pastor. He and his wife, Doris travel from Concord each Sunday morning.

The Pulpit Committee continues its search for a new pastor for Antrim Baptist Church. They are currently interviewing prospective candidates and are hoping to find someone who will enrich the church and the Antrim community.

The food pantry is reorganizing and the date for reopening will soon be announced. Larry Davis (588-3814) is the coordinator. Donations may be dropped off at the Peterborough Savings Bank in Antrim.

The Annual Meeting of the church will be held January 15, 1995 following a pot luck lunch after the worship service.

Janet Akins is the new secretary. She is the daughter of Fran Sawyer and lives on Grove St. She previously worked at the Antrim Family Medicine and Keene Clinic. Her hours at the church are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings 10-12 am.

Another new face at the Baptist Church is organist Dorothy Anita Smith. Her scholastic degrees are many and her experience very diversified. She is most welcome in our community.

Upcoming events include:

Hanging of the Greens (date TBA)

Dec 18 Christmas party after worship with potluck lunch.

Dec 21 Wed, 10am: Ladies Circle meets to study women of the Bible under Pres. Amy (Mrs. Donald)

Maughan, and to work on "Overseas" requests for hospital supplies for Zaire and Haiti, and quilting squares for the Philippines. Bring bag lunch. Dessert served.

Dec 24 Christmas Eve Service (Time TBA)

Jan 18 Continue study and work on hospital articles.

Feb 16 Again, continue study and work on hospital articles.

### **Bennington Congregational Church News:**

Dec 15 Decorating the Christmas Tree, 7pm. Help is needed and welcome and supplies are available to make Chrismsons.

Dec 18 Pre-Christmas worship service, 10:30am. This service is planned especially for children.

Dec 24 Christmas Eve service, 6-6:30pm. Parents are encouraged to bring their children.

Dec 25 Christmas Day worship service, 10:30am. A chance for families and guests to worship together.

### **Presbyterian Church**

Dec 18 Church family Christmas party and Children's Program, starting with a Potluck Dinner at 5pm, Children's Program at 7pm. Hopefully, Margie and Fred Roberts will be guests at the party.

Dec 22 Ecumenical Christmas Concert, Thursday, 7pm

Dec 24 Christmas Eve Service, 6:30pm

Feb 18 Washington Birthday Dinner - 6pm.

## Rival Shop News

### **A Great Year, Thank you!**

The community's growing support for the Revival Shop resulted in a 24% increase in sales of "gently-used" consignment clothes over 1993. And that increase has also meant an increase in gifts back to the community, including the Antrim, Greenfield and Hillsboro food banks, the Hospice Alliance of New Hampshire, and the First Presbyterian Church capital improvement fund. Your support does make a difference in our community.

### **Extra Space for Shop**

The Revival Shop took over an adjoining room in November, creating a new tagging area and storage space for incoming consignments, and adding two additional display racks in the shop. The floor has also been painted recently, and new rolling racks will be purchased shortly.

### **Thank you to our hard-working volunteers!**

Some work three-hour shifts each month in the shop, some behind the scenes doing tagging or bookkeeping, but all have something in common: Giving back to the community. Thanks to all who make the Revival Shop happen!

Sue Adkins, Janet Akins, Pat Beers, Brian Beihl, Jeana Beihl, Nancy Blair, Carley Booth, Ralph Booth, Tony Booth, Linda Bryer, Phyllis Clark, Betty Cole, Beth Doleac, Sharon Dowling, Margaret Ellice, Alycœmae Flanders, Christine Fletcher, Pam French, Marion Grant, Patty Grant, Ann Gregsak, Diane Gutgesell, Brianne Halverson, Nina Harding, Colleen Harding, Ardell Johnson, Susan Johnson, Frank Johnson, Kelly Kiburis, Eleanor Lane, Pauline Morgan, Helene Newbold, Jenny Newbold, Barbara Nichols, Isabel Nichols, Nancy Oldershaw, Martha Pinello, Doris Platt, Mary Sawich, Gloria Schacht, Joe Timko, Elisabeth White.

If you'd like to join our family as a volunteer, call Margaret Ellice at 478-3195 or Brian Beihl at 588-3014 or ask one of your friends listed above.

### **Shop Closings**

The Revival Shop will be closed for December 24, Christmas Eve, and December 31, New Year's Eve. Have a blessed and safe holiday!

## Odd Fellows

### **Dinner Dates**

The Odd Fellows will be holding two fundraising dinners:

Saturday, January 21, 1995  
Roast Beef for Arthritis

Saturday, March 19, 1995  
Mid-Winter Blues Supper

Both suppers will be held at the Presbyterian Church from 5-7pm. For further information call Sam Harding at 588-2442.

# Holiday Happenings

## Christmas Concert

**Music for Christmas: a Community Service** will be presented in the Antrim Presbyterian Church sanctuary on Thursday, Dec. 22nd, at 7pm. Local singers and instrumentalists, under the direction of Ray Sweeney, will be heard in the music of John Rutter, today's leading composer of sacred choral music, as well as in familiar carols and spirituals. "African Christmas," also on the program, is an exciting praise song by Frederick Silver featuring drums and brass. Soloists for the concert include Becky Davison Paquette and Gary Gagnon.

Ray Sweeney, a former choir director-organist in New York City, is well-known in this area for his musical work with the Antrim Players, Peterborough Players, Andy's Summer Playhouse, and several New Hampshire schools and colleges.

There will be no admission charge for the concert, but donations of non-perishable food items for the Antrim Food Bank would be appreciated.

## Keene Chorale

The Keene Chorale presents **A Winter Concert** with organ and brass ensemble, Sunday, Dec. 11, 1994, at 3pm. St. Bernard's Church, Main Street, Keene. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors and students. (Tickets are available at Toadstool Bookstore, in the Colony Mill, or at the door.

## First Lighting

Touchwood Square, Thursday, December 8th, at 5:30pm. (See article on front page.)

## PTO Craft Fair

Catch the Christmas Spirit! The Pierce School PTO Craft Fair will be held December 3, 1994, from 10am to 2pm, on Main Street in Bennington.

Free admission, 15 vendors, snacks, gifts and toys.

## Holiday Festival

On Saturday, December 3, the Smith Memorial Church on Main Street, Hillsboro will offer a Christmas Cookie Walk featuring many kinds of cookies, holiday Hors D'Oeuvres, a Boutique, Silent Auction and SERRV items.

## Not the King

Looking for an alternative to seeing another *Nutcracker* this year? Bring your family to see Northern Lights Dance Theatre's full-length seasonal offering, hosted this year by the Peterborough Players.

Talented local actors, musicians and dancers aged 7 through adult have been rehearsing all autumn to prepare this original musical production for December. **Not the King** tells the story of the fanciful kingdom of the eccentric King Rupert and his gentle Queen Issy, the heroic Annie and William, the enigmatic Miserenda, the mischievous Tree Sprites, and Charlie the barber, who is **NOT** the king, but whose bad haircuts keep a line of customers always at his door. It is a generously human story about forgiveness, love and the music of a people who share their enchantment with anyone who has ever believed in magic -- or ever wanted to.

Ten performances: December 8-11 and 15-18 at the Peterborough Players Theatre, Hadley Road, Peterborough. For more info/reservations, call 588-8055.



## Antrim Fire Department

During October members of the Fire Department have been busy with training two times a week. The majority of members attended this special training.

In December the Fire Department will hold election of officers. The members will decide the officers for 1995.

You think that you might have a fire or at the least you would like to have the Fire Department check it out. So you call 352-1100 (no need to dial 1 any longer). They advise they'll be right there. Within a few minutes you can hear them coming up the road. The next thing you know they'll be knocking at your door. But there they go! Right past your house. "Why didn't they stop? Didn't they see my driveway? The streets are all numbered now, they should have seen my numb..." Oh, so that's it! You forgot to number your mailbox or driveway. You've been so busy these past few weeks that you haven't had the time and now that it's getting cooler you're going to have to wait until spring. That's where you're wrong. You see, "WE'VE GOT YOUR NUMBER!" That's right! The Antrim Company 1 Firefighters Association can number your house, mailbox or driveway post so that it's visible during the day and highly reflective at night. We can even put your post in as well if you would like us to, all for a small donation. You benefit in 3 different ways! First, your numbers will be visible during the day as well as highly reflective at night! Second, we learn who you are and where you live, which can save time in a real emergency, and you meet the men and women of the Fire Department who are on call 24 hours a day. And third, you get a quality sign at a very reasonable price while donating to a good cause. So if you would like more information on this, keep an eye out for our advertisement in the local papers or call Bill Nichols at 588-6539.

## Antrim Rescue Squad

The Rescue Squad is a volunteer organization that provides 24 hour service free of charge to the community. The members of the Antrim Ambulance finance their services from donations, fundraisers and appropriations from the participating towns of Antrim, Bennington and Stoddard. They would like to remind townspeople that they are on call for those who need assistance getting to the hospital at no cost to the patient.

All Rescue personnel received CPR recertification in November.

Elections of officers will be held in January.

The Antrim Ambulance Fund will be raffling off two beautiful handcrafted blanket/hope chests. One is being made by Bob Varnum and the other by Dan Valley. The raffles, featuring one chest each, will be held on Valentine's Day and Mother's Day. Look for raffle tickets at Edmund's or from any Antrim Ambulance Squad member after the holidays.

## Military News

Carryl E. Davis, who attends Conval High School, has enlisted in the Army National Guard in Lebanon, NH. He will graduate from school in January 1995 and receive training at Fort Benning, GA from February to June. His recruiter is Ted Brown from Antrim, Sgt. 1st class, Army National Guard.

The 210th N.H. National Guard Engineers out of Peterborough, for a community service project, is helping rebuild the Girl Scout Camp at Gregg Lake. This was formerly Camp Sachem and now belongs to Swift Water Council.

Myers-Prescott-Olson American Legion Post #50 has presented to the Antrim Elementary School 10 new American flags, to replace the badly worn ones in the classrooms.

## Cross Country Skiing

B.K.C.C. Skiing, National Cross Country League for children, is held at Temple Mountain Saturday mornings and one afternoon per week during the winter. Rich and Lorraine Block of Antrim are co-directors of Temple Mountain Cross-Country Ski Center. Lorraine is the coach and leader of Temple Mountain's B.K.C.C. group.

Bill Koch is a former Olympic silver medalist. A native of Vermont, he began skiing in the early 70's in a local ski club and was an active Nordic combined skier before turning his efforts toward cross country ski racing. In 1976 he shocked the ski world with a silver medal in the 30-kilometer event at the Winter Olympic Games in Seefeld/Innsbruck, Austria. A few years later, he won the World Cup series. He is often credited with starting the "skating revolution" that so dramatically changed cross country skiing in the 1980's.

All parents interested in this program are asked to call the Blocks at 588-2552 for further information.

## Yoga Class

A Yoga class is being offered at Northern Lights Dance Theatre for all abilities, beginners to advanced. This is a great chance to relax, unwind, release tension and feel great. Call Janet Archer, instructor, for more info or registration : 588-2201.

Classes are Wednesday, 7:30-8:45pm, and Saturday, 9:00-10:15pm

Janet also offers private yoga therapy sessions. Gift certificates are available.



## Historical Society

The Antrim Historical Society has been presented with a valuable and interesting book, *Antrim NH: Footnotes to History*. Mr. Kermit Davis of Keene has transcribed and annotated the diaries of his father, Clinton P. Davis, from the years 1898-1901. Included are several illustrations made from glass negatives taken in Antrim around the turn of the century.

Clinton Davis was a teenager at this time, and his life was centered around school, with his never-ending homework in Latin and Algebra, and seasonal activities such as sleighrides, bicycling and baseball. His mother ran a dry goods store in the new Town Hall building, and he and his brother Everett were frequent helpers there. This charming account of life in the village nearly 100 years ago may be read with the permission of any Historical Society member. Inquire at the Library.

Meetings will resume in March 1995, and will focus on the Aiken Building, its history and the ways it can be used to benefit the Historical Society. Several members have been meeting with Library personnel and Selectman Phil Dwight to explore the possibilities of added space for our local history collection. This great gift to the Town has inspired an exciting long-range project for interested groups.

## At Rynborn's

Things are happening over at the Rynborn. With renovations complete, the restaurant is now able to offer more room than ever for nonsmokers and smokers alike.

With specials constantly changing, Chef Leah Tokunaga is able to offer a wide variety of continental dishes with French overtones and Cajun specialties. Using only the freshest ingredients, each meal is prepared to order. There is not a microwave on the

premises. When you're thinking about Christmas parties think about the Rynborn.

Because of the new hours (Tuesday through Saturday - restaurant: lunch 11:30 to 3:00 and dinner 5:00 to 10:00, lounge 11:30 until last call) the Sunday night Blues Jam with "My Man Otis" is now being held on Thursday evenings. Proprietor Doug Aborn is featuring a variety of local blues bands in the club on Friday nights and regional acts on Saturday nights, with national acts once or twice a month. Looking for something to do on New Years Eve? Call early for a schedule or reservation - 588-6162.

*See Rynborn's Blues Club schedule in this issue's calendar pages.*

## Aiken House in Antrim History

By the end of the first decade of the nineteenth century Antrim had grown from a population of one to a town of nearly thirteen hundred people, most of whom were pretty well scattered throughout the town's sixty five square mile area. South Village, or Woodbury Village, as it was then generally known, had grown much more slowly than some other parts of the town ... the Center and the North Branch for example. It had grown from James Aiken's first log cabin to a community of as many as fourteen homes clustered around the first road in town, which ran from "Baldwin Bridge" along present day Depot and Main streets, around the east side of Meetinghouse Hill to the North Branch, and ultimately to Hillsborough Bridge.

Most of those early houses were constructed of logs or were simple single story framed houses. They were homes for some of Antrim's earliest

entrepreneurs: Tanners, Sawyers, Carders, Fullers and Millers who were using the power of Great Brook to produce their products.

In 1806 James Aiken, Jr. built a new home on the northern edge of his father's farm. It was situated high on the ridge to the east of Hadley's potash mill (which earlier had been his father's second saw mill) and overlooked the gully carved out by Great Brook. It was west of cleared fields sloping more gently down to the river. There seems to be no conclusive record indicating the size of the original house nor any record indicating that it was merely a part of the early Federal style, two story structure sitting on top of Goodell hill south of the library today. Rough hewn stringers still carrying bark on two sides, and split lath and plaster walls suggest that the construction of the house may be much as it was when origi-

nally built. If so, it was probably the first two story frame house completed in the Village.

The Aiken family did not remain in town long to enjoy their new home for in 1806 Epps Burnham came to Antrim and according to Dr. Chochrane's history "bought and moved onto the Dea. Aiken farm .. now (1877) owned by Mr. Whittum." Through the years the farm passed through a variety of owners, including Mr. Whittum, until late in the century when Gov. Goodell bought the property and converted the house into tenements for his employees. Subsequent owners have put the place to the same use.

This house has been witness to the development of Antrim for one hundred and eighty-eight years and if buildings could talk it would spin a fascinating tale.

*David Hurlin*

# *school news*

## Calendar of Events

### December

- 1 GBS PTO - 7:00 pm
- 8 Musicians at Antrim Tree  
Lighting Touchwood Square
- 13 Holiday Concert at GBS - 7 PM
- 15 GBS Musicians at Crotched  
Mountain  
GBS vs Marlborough Basketball -  
3:30 G/5:00 B
- 16 GBS Chorale at Colony Mill  
Marketplace
- 19 GBS vs Murdock Basketball -  
3:30 G /5:00 B

### January

- 5 Caribbean Culture Exhibit -  
GBS gym - 5:00-7:00 pm  
GBS skiers - Pat's Peak
- 10 GBS vs Boynton Basketball  
3:30 G /5:00 B
- 16 GBS Donkey Basketball -  
Time TBA
- 18 GBS Restructuring meeting -  
7:00 pm
- 19 GBS skiers - Pat's Peak
- 20 GBS vs South Meadow Basketball  
- 3:30 G/5:00 B
- 24 GBS vs Jaffery-Rindge Basketball  
- 3:30 G/5:00 B
- 26 GBS skiers - Pat's Peak  
GBS vs Monadnock Basketball -  
4:00 G/5:30 B

### February

- 2 GBS skiers - Pat's Peak
- 8 GBS vs Kearsarge Basketball  
- 4:00 B/5:30 G
- 14 Antrim Recreation Tournament  
TBA
- 15 GBS Restructuring meeting - 7pm
- 16 Antrim Recreation Tournament  
TBA

## Help Available

Are you getting a little older and need a little help shopping or need someone to read that small print in the newspaper to you? Does your church group need help setting up for a

supper, assistance in Sunday school, someone to "man" the sales table, or just an extra pair of young legs to do the running around? GBS students are anxious to help.

Students need four hours of community service in order to become Student of the Month at GBS. In addition, students need to have earned two "white cards" for superior work and four "caught 'ya cards" when caught being cooperative, honest, or responsible, and need to be involved in an extra curricular activity.

Different community groups sponsor the special activity for these students each month. For October there were fifty students of the month. They went bowling in Hillsboro, were given coupons for two free strings of bowling at B&L Bowling and a frozen yogurt at MacDonald's. Past months have featured breakfast, a free book from the Toadstool, a morning at the Antrim Art Academy, snowshoeing at the Harris Center, and a meeting with a Disney artist.

It's often hard for students at this age to find community service projects. If you can help by needing help, please call Assistant Principal Betty Borry at 588-6630.

## Thank You!

The administration and staff at GBS would like to thank The Antrim Elementary School PTO, The Pierce School PTO, The Hancock Elementary School PTO, The Frankestown Elementary School PTO, The Peterborough Savings Bank, Mr. & Mrs. David Beck, and Jean Smith for their generous donation helping our 5th grade students attend Sargent Camp. The Sargent Camp trip is a highlight of 5th grade for many students. We appreciate the help from these organizations and people who made camp possible for all those who wanted to attend.

## Holiday Music

The Great Brook Music department will present their Holiday Concert on December 13th at 7:00 pm in the GBS gymnasium. There is no admission; the community is invited to attend this delightful evening of song and music.

You can also catch the GBS musicians at other places during this holiday season. On Thursday, December 8th, the singing groups will participate in the Antrim Tree Lighting at Touchwood Square. On December 15th the Band, Chorus, and Chorale will travel to Crotched Mountain Rehabilitation Center for their annual concert. Friday, December 16th, you can catch the Chorale's performance at Colony Mill Marketplace in Keene in the early afternoon.

Watch for the 5th grade Glee Club sometime during the week of December 19th. They will take a "caroling" stroll through the downtown streets of Antrim. Call GBS on the 19th if you would like a specific date and time.

## Computer Classes

New this year, all GBS staff are being trained in how to use the school Macintosh computers. Each week's class focuses on one specific skill that can be used to assist teachers to prepare better worksheets for students or help students with projects.

Last spring Ruth Behrsing offered an evening workshop in the use of the Macintosh computer for community members for a donation of \$50 each (proceeds bought equipment for the computer room). If you are interested and can get together a group of 10 people, give Ruth a call (588-6630).

## GBS PTO *Child care provided*

Really would like to attend the PTO meeting and become involved in your child's education, but it's too expensive to hire a baby sitter and the children aren't quite old enough to leave on their own? New PTO President Craig Seavey hears you. As part



of their community service work, older GBS students will be available to watch your children while you attend the meeting.

The meetings are a mixture of information about what's going on at GBS and planning for ways the PTO can assist in the education of our children. At the November meeting, fifth grade students presented a slide show on their Sargent Camp experience and made refreshments similar to the ones the PTO provided for the students at camp.

The next meeting will be Thursday, December 1st, at 7:00 PM in the GBS library. This meeting will set the course for this school year including setting meeting times, hearing reports of events currently in the works and planning what the PTO sees as its focus for the year. Please come. Bring ideas and suggestions - and your children if you need a sitter.

### Trained Sitters

No, not hens! The GBS Consumer and Family Studies classes are involved in a babysitting course similar to the Red Cross class. The focus is on safety and activities to do with children. These skills will help students be better prepared babysitters now and better parents in the future.

### Abuse of Power

What happens when government abuses its power? What is freedom? These were questions students in Ellen Salmonson's eighth grade social studies classes addressed, and their study spilled over into other subject areas.

Students began fairly traditionally by studying the United States Revolution, Constitution, and Bill of Rights. Rather than plow through to the next decade, students stopped to examine in depth the fundamental concepts of freedom..

Their studies led them to the Holocaust, the ultimate example of abuse of power. Dr. Hilderbrandt, the

Keene State College professor who was instrumental establishing the Holocaust center at KSC, spent an afternoon with the students. Through slides and the sharing of his life-time study of the Holocaust, students began to see the atrocities that filled this time in our history.

Stephen Lewy, a Holocaust survivor who now lives in Manchester, NH, shared his personal experiences of being a boy at this time. His memories of escaping to France and being helped there by a number of people from different religions and backgrounds, some of them German soldiers who had not been trained under Nazism, allowed students to see the good that can and does exist even during the most horrendous abuses of power. Individual people really can make a difference.

Students not only read *The Diary of Anne Frank*, but were able to attend the Palace Theater presentation in Manchester and identify with this perspective from a child their own age.

The students' posters, essays, and debates were concrete examples of the interest and thinking that this unit stirred and showed a great depth of the understanding and belief in our American freedoms.

### Community Input Sought

Be a part of the solution! The third Wednesday of each month, Rick Nannicelli, Principal of Great Brook School, and community members work to improve education at Great Brook School. This restructuring committee discusses what is going on and what needs to happen at GBS. They will eventually merge with a group of GBS teachers who have been working on similar ideas.

The meetings last from 7:00-8:00 pm in the GBS library, and all community members are invited to attend. This is a group that will impact on the education of our children. Please become involved. Due to the holidays, the next meeting will be January 18th.

### A Taste of the World

Did you get to Boston in October the visit the multi cultural fair? If not, here's a second chance. In early March the seventh grade team will be creating their own fair right here at GBS. You will have a chance to sample the foods of different countries, see examples of their art, sports and other aspects of their culture as well as be greeted by students dressed in traditional clothing.

All this takes plenty of work. Students will be writing letters to embassies and gathering information from books, video tapes, etc. Dona Fairbairn, ELP teacher, is arranging for Morris Dancers to do a presentation for the students and has written a grant to get a Gaucho group from Uruguay.

People to interview are urgently needed. Do you have roots in, or perhaps have visited, another country? Do you have slides, visuals, recipes, costumes, anything that would help the culture of that country come alive for students and eventually the community? Would you be willing to be a resource for a small group of students? Please call unit coordinator Kathy Chisholm (588-6630) if you would be willing to become involved in any way.

### Rickrack and Glitter

Leftover craft materials clogging up your attic and sewing room? The GBS art room can use even the smallest pieces for doll costumes for the integrated sixth grade Caribbean unit. Any rickrack, glitter appliques, felt or cloth scraps would be greatly appreciated. These can be dropped off at the GBS office, or call Fran Hewitt (588-6630) for more information.

### Let it snow!

Starting January 5, 1995 eighty GBS skiers and their chaperones will hit the slopes of Pat's Peak for five consecutive Thursday afternoons of

skiing. Students grades 5-8 will participate in 2 one hour lessons followed by two hours of practice skiing. Students leave GBS at 2:30 and return by 7:00 pm.

## Winter Sunshine

The warm breeze of the Caribbean will warm the January snows on January 5, 1995. From 5:00-7:00 pm the GBS gymnasium will be alive with the music and dance of the Caribbean. The community is invited to participate in this extravaganza of entertainment and displays. Breathe deeply of the aroma of traditional dishes and even purchase a bite for yourself.

Sixth grade teachers are looking for anyone who has lived in or visited the Caribbean to help with this six week integrated unit. Students are reading the CAY and participating in an Amigos simulation activity. In addition, they are doing in depth research and are in need of additional resources. For more information or to offer your help, call David Lessar at 588-6630.

## Graphics Available

The GBS Computer Service Club continues to provide help to the community. Students created bookmarks for all the four GBS towns. They helped with a community newsletter for the Francestown library, did graphics for the GBS newsletter, and created forms for the school.

If your group's publications could use sprucing up, the GBS Computer Service Club can help you. The next session begins in January; call Ruth Behrsing at 588-6630 for more information.

## GBS Sports

Soccer and field hockey are history, but basketball is alive and well. For the month of November, 5-8 grade boys and girls have been shooting the hoops in intramural

basketball. From these aspiring athletes, the boys and girls teams will be picked. The first home game is December 5th against Marlborough. See the calendar of events for other dates and times of home games. Relive your exciting junior high days (of long ago?) by coming out and cheering for the GBS teams.

## Is it a bird...?

Fifth graders in 5S and 5W culminated their Raptor unit by visiting the Aviation center at Daniel Webster College in Nashua. The students actually sat in planes and "flew" via the flight simulators. What do birds and planes have in common? Well, flight of course, but also navigation, wind currents, and design. The trip also served as an introduction to studying explorers.

All fifth grade classes will be "sailing" their ships through history, studying new lands and experiencing the dangers of the vast unknown.

## GBS Leaders

In October the GBS Student Council met after school for leadership training. Its focus this year is Teamwork, Leadership, and Community Connections.

A portion of the profits from the November school dance was donated to the Antrim Food Pantry. Part of the dance admission was a non-perishable food item which also went to the food pantry.

The Student Council is also seeking out agencies for Community Service projects. Speakers from the PTO, Parent Volunteer Program, and a local nursing home are scheduled.

## Repeat Performance

The second time around is just as sweet. Eighth grader Andy Chabot has again been selected by ORIGAMI USA and JAPAN AIRLINES to have his origami displayed in the window of the Donnell Library Center in New

York City from November 19- January 4th. Andy's model was chosen from hundreds of student models. He is one of 62 students from 23 states to have his origami displayed. Along with this honor Andy will receive a gift, certificate of merit, and a year's membership in Origami USA. If you happen to find yourself on 53rd Street this Christmas season, stop by and view Andy's work (his picture and name will identify his work).

## Pessimist vs Optimist

"There is no sense leaving anything behind, by 2095 there will be no world left."

"Due to the ever advancing knowledge in medicine, I will be alive in 2095 to open the time capsule."

Are you a pessimist or an optimist? Seventh graders have spent the fall compiling data for a time capsule to be opened in 2095. In small groups students created posters, lists of top 10 singers and the like, descriptions of food, pictures of clothing, gathered coins, etc. and created a video to give people in the future an idea of our culture in 1994/95.

A select few who showed interest and diligence during the class activities, then made selections from what had been gathered. Under the direction of computer teacher Ruth Behrsing students learned how to put photographs and pictures onto a disk as well as narratives. This disk will be entered into the contest sponsored by Quality Computers. There is no prize, but each of the 100 schools around America that participated will receive a CD compilation of all 100 schools' entries.

## Descendants Wanted

Do you have relatives who fought in the Civil War? Eighth grade students would like to interview you. For three weeks eighth graders will immerse themselves in the Civil War era. Their research will culminate in a Civil War magazine. Please call Ellen Salmonson at 588-6630 if you have

information and/or memorabilia that you would be willing to share.

### "One-Man Show"

At the SAU Corner Gallery at the Superintendent's office in Peterborough eighth grader Ryan Beil's Star Trek Art Work was featured. Along with other 6th and 8th graders, Brain's cartoons and drawings have been on display for the month of November.

In January a photograph exhibit will feature a staff and student work along with that of visiting photographers. For more information call Polly Pierce at the superintendent's office (924-3336).

### Skis, please

The GBS special Olympic team is looking for cross country ski equipment. Anyone wishing to donate boots, skis, and/or poles, please call Janet Pietrovito at 588-6630.

On October 29th the GBS special Olympics soccer team participated in the Fall Games in Concord. Amanda McCarthy scored 2 goals for GBS. The team won a silver medal in their division. Congratulations to the team for playing some great games.

### Donkey Basketball

The GBS PTO is planning to sponsor a Donkey Basketball game on January 16th as their major fundraiser for the year. Plans are in the initial stages, but they hope to rustle up four teams from the GBS community to participate. So... if someone comes knocking on your door, give some thought to joining a team. We are promised that there is no harm to the animals, and the evening should help spice up the January slump after the holidays. Admission will be charged at the door and refreshments will be sold.

# after school

## Antrim Scout Troup 2

The Antrim-Bennington Boy Scouts from Troop 2 are once again selling Balsam Christmas wreaths. The prices start at \$6 for a 10" plain wreath, \$8 for a 14", and \$16 for a 24". If a bow is desired \$2 is added to the price. If a bow, cones and berries are desired, \$4 would be added to the price of the plain wreath. Larger wreaths are also available already decorated with a bow. The 30" wreaths are \$30. The 36" wreaths are \$35. If you have any questions, or would like to order a wreath, please contact Roberta Hall at 588-6789. The wreaths will be sold after Thanksgiving at Waynos, Cricentis, and the Hilltop Christmas Tree Farm in Hancock.

The scouts have been busy this fall starting with a camp-out at Gregg Lake, a district Fall Camporee at the Deering Fish and Game Club, and the Scouting For Food Project. They have been reviewing their knot tying and first aid requirements at the troop meetings.

November should be an exciting learning experience as the boys will be learning animal tracking and techniques along with some star study.

If anyone is interested in joining troop 2 or has any questions, please feel free to contact any of our leaders: Andrew Linn: 924-9373, Brian Burford: 588-2920, or Richard Jennison: 588-2687.

## Hot to Trot 4-H Club

The Hot-to Trot 4-H club is off at full gallop on another year of activities and events with the count of eighteen members. At the annual awards night, the following officers were sworn in for the new year: President, Jennifer McGurty; Vice President, Meagan Slater, Secretary, Caitlin McGurty; Treasurer, Stephanie Hall; and Correspondent, Olivia Ali-Oglu. It was reported that Ryan Richard, Meagan

Slater, Stephanie Hall, Brigitte Gutgesell, Katy Paige, and Jennifer and Caitlin McGurty all attended 4-H Livestock Camp with their horses during the summer. Jennifer McGurty and Meagan Slater qualified and represented Hillsborough County at the State 4-H Horse Show. A number of the club's members also rode or marched in the Antrim Centennial Parade.

A report was made on the horse show the club sponsored on August 14. Despite some dreary weather, the show was quite successful. Many thanks go out to the local businesses that sponsored classes and to all the townspeople who spectated at this event. Plans will soon be in the works for next year's show.

Another thank you goes to our community for helping support the club's second annual Spooky Hayride. This successful fundraiser was put on by the members, family and friends.

The club's current fundraiser is the sale of 4-H cookies. Orders have already been taken and processed, but extra cases are being sold locally.

The club received a blue ribbon for its exhibit at Hillsborough County Fair. Other fall county activities that the "Trotters" have participated in are the Foods Festival and the Horse Judging Contest. The club is now gearing up for the State Quiz Bowl and expects to have three teams entered in February.

Club leader Beth Merrill announced that her family will be hosting Carmen Galdona, an I.F.Y.E. exchange student from Paraguay, in December.

## Jujitsu

Jim Aborn is again offering Jujitsu for the whole family. In December, classes will switch to Fridays in the GBS gym. Cost is \$35 for ten weeks. Times are 4pm for children, 5pm for intermediates, and 6pm for adults.

If you can't make Fridays, classes are also offered at South Meadow in Peterborough on Wednesday nights. Call Jim at 464-5353 for more info.

## *Did You Know That. . . .*

**Walt's Place** on Rt 202 is offering UPS parcel service again? However, he warns, if townspeople do not take advantage of this service, he will have to close it permanently. Walter Horne (Walt's Place) is located on Rt. 202 at the foot of Elm St. He also offers custom machining, lathe milling, silver solder, backhoe work, hot top sealing, epoxy work in 5 colors and sells Mason's shoes. You can reach him at 588-2810.

**Tyler's Small Engine and Repair Service** is located on Rt. 202N? They deal in lawn, garden and forestry equipment and repair same. They have been in business for nine years and handle Toro, Stihl, Husqvarna and Lawn Boy power equipment. The business is owned and operated by James Tyler and his son Mike. They are open six days a week (closed Saturdays) and can be reached at 588-6200.

**Bryer Builders** is located at the crossroad of Pleasant St. and Old Hancock Rd? The owner is Todd Bryer. He is involved in all phases of carpentry -- light construction, renovations, new homes, updating old ones, roof repairs, you name it! If you are planning any of these, Todd can be reached at 588-2679.

**Bill Bezio** repairs major household appliances, electric and gas? He has thirty years of experience and is a licensed electrician, so household wiring is included in his capabilities. He can be reached at 588-6595 on North Main St. in Antrim.

Correction for the article about **Ruth Benedict** in the September issue -- Ruth is a graphic design artist and her services include business card design. Sorry about that, Ruth.

**Hugh Giffin** operates Giffin Technology services, located on Route 202, North of Town? Hugh provides Engineering services for small to medium manufacturing operations. Services include: machine tool development, modification and design, prototype fabrication, productivity analysis and systems design, with Computer Aided Design. He also consults on engineering problems associated with older home and building restoration/addition projects. GTC has 20 years of providing innovative ideas for small to large problems. For more information he can be reached at 588-6570 (message, voice fax).

**Barbara Shea** does hand screened prints, cards and tags -- a diversified assortment -- available at her home on Main St., next to the Baptist Church? What a nice idea for Christmas gifts! Her phone number is 588-2202.

**Veterinarian Dr. Tom Dowling** is moving his practice to Rt. 202 (where Wit's End Shop was previously located)? He will be relocated by Dec. 1 and will work out of the back section of the building. This family run business, serving both large and small animals, will expand in the coming year and offer a wider variety of services, easy access and ample parking. His phone number is 588-3460.

**Antrim Citgo** has moved to their new, larger location on Rt. 202 (the old Altan Construction Building)? Still offering the same high quality repairs and towing, the new location has plenty of parking, easier access and the ability to service more customers efficiently. To reach them, call 588-6262. The new name is **Antrim Automotive Repair and Towing Service** and owner is Mark Gilardi.

**KJ Business Services** operated by Keith and Jan Boatright, provides computer based payroll services to businesses and towns? They have been in business since 1986 and are located on Stacy Hill Road in Antrim. They can be reached at 588-2809.

*We would like this column to portray the many and diversified services available in Antrim. We will have another group in our next newsletter. If you would like to be included in a future issue, please call 588-6338 or mail information to Gloria Schacht, P.O. box 143, Antrim, NH 03440.*

## FOLK TALES

by Chuck McLean

*Editor's note - We are delighted to have this memoir about Byron Butterfield by his grandson, Chuck McLean. Mr. Butterfield owned and operated the Butterfield Farm on Rte. 31, just north of Clinton Village and would have been 100 years old this November. Chuck is a 1965 graduate of the old Antrim High School. He has two grown children and lives on the coast of Maine.*

### Bones

Bones was the nickname Ralph Little had for my grandfather, Byron Butterfield of Antrim, NH. I don't know the origin of that nickname but if it had anything to do with Gramp's tall and spare physique, then certainly the name fit. I didn't, of course, call him "Bones" but now find the name interesting and perhaps peculiar.

Bones wasn't an easy person to know. He walked fast as if being tugged by some unspoken, purpose, and spoke sparingly. His actions, I suppose, spoke for him. He worked long, hard hours in the barn and out-of-doors. I think he preferred just being outside whether cutting hay in the north fields or fixing fences to keep the cows out of the Bass Farm garden. Outside, he was free.

He hummed little tunes while he worked and was always looking around to check on - what? The weather? The time of day? The lay of the land? He stood large on the land, a profile cut of granite.

When I worked for Bones on Butterfield Farm I took all my cues from his physical movements and facial expressions. I could sense when it was time to rake the hay,

shovel cow manure, repair stone walls, or have noontime dinner with Nana. There was no need for a lot of talk. I just knew.

I loved the farm and always tried to do the best job I could, no matter what the task. I could never tell if Bones liked my work or not. He wasn't inclined to say "good job" or "nice work." I guess that we just developed a common understanding about what needed to be done (or in some cases re-done) or when enough was enough.

I know that I disappointed him at least twice: once when I skipped work to go see some girls in Hillsborough and once when I told him that I was a registered Democrat. In both instances his eyes told me all that I needed to know.

On occasion he would smile, look down at the ground, and share a humorous story from the past. He had an intelligent, tanned and handsome face and was amused by the little twists of fate and irony that we all suffer. I didn't always understand his jokes but enjoyed laughing anyway, perhaps in relief to see him relaxed and smiling.

Ralph Little would visit the farm every day and he and Bones would chat out in the front yard. They would swap stories, swat flies, tell jokes and then as if by schedule, Ralph would leave and Bones would return to his work. They too shared a common understanding.

Bones belonged to the land as much as the land belonged to him. He worked the rocky soil through muddy spring, dry summer, and frozen winter. His hands were big and gnarled. He never complained. He understood that his sense of duty was to his land and to his family and community. He would dress-up in white shirt, suspenders, suit and tie to go to

Odd Fellows on Friday night. He would wear the same suit to serve as Moderator on Town Meeting Day. He had a presence, an unshakable confidence that earned him a kind of fear from young people like me and a respect from his fellow townspeople.

Bones was, in a sense, an "elder of the tribe." He had an uncommon wisdom learned from hard work on the land that made him a recognized leader of our small NH town.

If Bones had lived he would have turned 100 years old in November, 1994. What would he think of the world today? Too much violence, loud music, and drugs? Too many talk shows, too many slackers and windbag politicians? What - no BASEBALL?

Perhaps he'd say that there are no leaders with character today, no "adults," no elders of the tribe. He would probably regard Bob Dole and Newt the Grinch as juvenile and paranoid. He'd probably like Jimmy Carter, though, but wouldn't admit it since Jimmy is, after all, a Democrat.

I've thought a lot about Bones lately and wonder what he'd think of me, the "adult" now. I think he'd approve of my thoughtful, taciturn approach to things, to solving problems in the mountains and out-at-sea. I think he'd approve of my "connection" to the land, my rugged outdoor life and understand the purpose of it. He'd chuckle to know that I hum little tunes too and look around a lot.

I can picture him now walking beside the brook toward the farm with his old dog Hannah. I can also picture myself standing in the front yard with Bones telling stories talking baseball, and then knowing when it was time to leave.

## Report from the Conval School Board

Paul Ruess, School Board Member from Antrim

Over the next several months you will begin to see and hear a lot of information about many important issues facing the Conval School district. At the Annual District Meeting in March voters will likely be asked to decide on such issues as approving a construction program and bond issues for all of the District's elementary schools, deciding on a teacher salary package for the 1994 through 1996 school years, approving a long-range plan for computer technology throughout all schools in the District, as well as the operating budget for the 1995-96 school year.

Traditionally, relatively few Antrim voters attend the District Meeting that occurs in early March, as well as other meetings the Board holds in Town in January and February. So I thought many residents and voters would find it helpful to know some of the basic facts about the Conval School District. This information may help you better understand and vote on the issues that we will be facing in the months (and years) to come.

Our Cooperative School District was formed in the late 1960's when 9 towns in the area (Antrim, Bennington, Dublin, Frankestown, Greenfield, Hancock, Peterborough, Sharon and Temple) joined together. The School Board has 13 members: Peterborough has 4 members, Antrim has 2, and all the rest have 1.

At that time, a contract called the "Articles of Agreement" was created, which established the basic rules on how the District operates. One of the most important rules in the Articles of Agreement concerns how each town pays for its share of District costs (this is the "funding formula" that Antrim tried to change last year). Another rule is that each town *must* have its own elementary school (except for Sharon, which sends its students to Peterborough). Changing the Articles of Agreement requires a 2/3 vote in favor of the change, which is why it has been so hard to change the

funding formula that is so unfair to Antrim.

When the district was formed, all school buildings in all the towns became the property of the Conval District, with one exception -- the land surrounding Antrim's Elementary School (as well as the Memorial Gym next to the school) remain Antrim's property even though the Conval District pays for most of the repair and maintenance costs.

Many of the elementary school buildings are old. Greenfield's school was built in 1886 and Hancock's in 1893. Because of overcrowding, temporary school buildings have been built in Bennington and Frankestown (there will also be a temporary structure built in Hancock next year). As you may know, a construction bond issue is likely to be voted on at District Meeting in March.

The two middle schools in Antrim and Peterborough had major renovations and additions that were completed in 1970, at a cost of approximately \$11 million. Conval High School was completed in 1970, but will have a major addition (the Technology Center) built next year. The \$5 million construction cost is being paid by the State of New Hampshire, and not the Conval District. The current student population in the District is about 2950, which includes 250 half day kindergarten students. For the past several years the total student population has grown by about 3% per year, and this rate of growth is expected to continue for several more years.

The elementary schools handle grades K through 4, and there are 1290 elementary students in all. Peterborough Elementary School is the largest, with 412 students (Antrim has 207). The middle schools cover grades 5 through 8 and have 908 students in all (392 in Antrim and 516 in Peterborough). Conval High School contains grades 9 through 12 and there are currently 750 students there.

Over the next few years the High School population will grow from 750 to over 900, which is one reason why the additional space in the new Technology Center is important and beneficial to our district.

One of the least understood aspects of public school education is Special Education. Frequently, Special Education is mentioned as one of the reasons why school costs continue to rise. Students with special needs have very specific legal rights, and it is the law that school districts must pay all educational costs associated with a student's special education program. Sometimes these costs can be \$30,000 or even \$100,000 per year (compared to an average cost of about \$5800 per student in the district). The District *must* pay these costs, although the State does repay some part when costs for a student are extremely high.

Another aspect of Special Education law is that special needs students must be educated with their peers in a regular classroom whenever possible. This rule also helps school districts keep special education costs down, because regular classes cost so much less to operate. The Conval District is very successful with "mainstreaming," but it must be remembered that students with special needs can require more of a teacher's time, and so it is very important that the size of a class be kept at a reasonable level. With mainstreaming in mind, the Conval Board's policy is to have about 20 students per classroom, but the actual average class size is slightly above 22.

Finally, I'd like to explain the process of negotiating teacher salaries. Conval teachers are part of a collective bargaining unit (a union), and the union negotiates teacher salaries with the Conval School Board. Negotiations can take many months to complete, and both sides usually have to make some compromises in order to reach an agreement.

*continued next page*



## Report from the State House

Looking Ahead by Rep. Gordon Allen

In New Hampshire, the biggest change on November 8th was the Republican take-over of the NH Senate (now an 18-6 majority) and the defeat of key Senators who opposed Governor Merrill on budget issues. This means that, unlike the last state budget where the Senate forced compromises, the governor's plan to solve the budget deficit will likely prevail without changes.

**The Budget Deficit** - Few people are aware of the large budget deficit facing our state because both gubernatorial candidates avoided it like the plague. However unethical it was to hide the problem from the public, this issue was considered political suicide. Both sides recognized that the only real options were higher taxes or cuts to programs serving real people. New Hampshire avoided these hard choices over the past four years through a loophole in the federal

medicaid Health Insurance Program. This Medicaid money is now the state's largest single source of revenue. The basic budget problem is that the medicaid loophole is being closed, and we risk losing \$100 million per year.

Governor Merrill is now facing this unpleasant music - at least in small doses. Two days after the election, he announced a \$45 million budget deficit for this fiscal year (ending June 30, 1995). This only counts the revenue shortfalls and, when the spending overruns are added in, the Governor will be confronted with a deficit of over \$60 million. So far, he has proposed cuts that close that deficit gap by \$24 million.

The Governor's task in submitting budgets for 1996 and 1997 will be even more difficult. Can we maintain essential services (roads, police, economic development, caring for the disabled, children and elderly) without

new taxes, if we lose \$300 million in federal money? I'm especially worried that the budget crisis will cost us the reforms we made in health coverage for children and the disabled.

**Property Tax Relief** - The state budget problems will likely overshadow the problem of too high, unfair, and uncapped property taxes. To keep this issue on center stage (where it belongs), I will re-submit an updated version of my property tax relief bill. This gives us a new opportunity to get the real facts, not the rhetoric, debated in the legislature.

The next two years will be important and difficult ones for NH Legislature and I hope you will share your thoughts with me. I can be reached at 588-2742 (late evenings and week-ends), at 1-800-457-2900 (during the day), or drop me a note (new address: 21 Summer Street, Antrim, NH 03440).

## Report from the School Board *continued*

Once a tentative contract has been agreed between the two parties, the voters of the district must either approve or reject the contract. At the District Meeting last March, the proposed teacher salaries were rejected.

Normally the two sides then go back to negotiating. If there is no agreement, there is an impasse and a mediator can be used to help resolve the differences. If that step is not taken (or does not work), then a fact finder is brought in, who researches all the facts of the negotiation and then issues a recommended settlement. This is the path the Conval District has recently been following, and a fact finder's report will be issued shortly.

The voters in the District must vote on the fact finder's report, even if the Board and/or the teachers do not agree with the report's recommendations. If the voters reject the fact finder's report, the process of negotiation begins all over again.

As this negotiation process unfolds, please keep in mind that **no one can impose or dictate** salaries. Not the School Board, nor the teachers, nor the voters. All parties have to agree or there can be no solution. Also, it is not good to operate our school system and employ our teachers for a long period of time without an agreement on salaries. This can only lead to low teacher morale, misunderstandings, and a lower quality education for the children of our community. Whatever the fact finder recommends, it must be given careful, serious consideration.

For 25 years, the Conval District has been one of the best public school systems in New Hampshire. This has been the result of dedication, hard work, and support from taxpayers, parents, teachers, and school administrators. Let's continue to work together to solve our educational challenges and keep Conval this way.

## ANTRIM TOWN HOURS

### TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR:

Monday: 8-12 noon; 7-9pm

Tuesday: closed to the Public

Wednesday: 8-12 noon;

Thursday: 8-12 noon; 1-4pm

Closed Fridays

### A.R.T. (RECYCLING/TRANSFER STATION)

Wednesday 2-7; Friday 9-2

Saturday 9-5

### LIBRARY HOURS

Mon 2-5; Tues 2-6, Wed-closed

Thurs 2-8, Fri 9-12, Sat 10-4

### REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS

SELECTMEN: Mondays, 7:30pm, Town Hall

PLANNING BOARD: -1st & 3rd Thursdays,  
7:30 pm, Town Hall

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT: Tuesdays,  
7:30 pm, Town Hall, as needed

SEWER & WATER COMMISSION: 3rd Monday,  
7:30 pm, S&W plant

CONSERVATION COMMISSION- 2nd Wednesday,  
7:30 pm, Town Hall

## Subscription Service

Know anyone who would like to receive the LIMRIK? A subscription to our local newsletter for our men and women in the services, for children away at school, or for Antrim friends and relatives would be a pleasing and appropriate gift. The cost? \$3 per year to cover mailing of 4 issues. Send your subscription requests to our new Subscription Manager: Dorothea Shea, 523 Aiken St., Antrim, NH 03440

*Reach every household in Antrim  
for about 2 cents each!*

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HERE**

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or \$85 for 4 issues*

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**The Antrim Limrik**  
**PO Box 30**  
**Antrim, NH 03440**

BULK RATE  
US POSTAGE PAID  
ANTRIM NH 03440  
PERMIT #46

**POSTAL PATRON**  
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# Antrim Community Calendar

## DECEMBER

- 2 Rynborn Blues *TJ WHEELER & THE SMOKERS*
- 3 Woman's Club Meeting, Maplehurst Inn, 12:30pm
- 3 PTO Craft Fair, Main Street, Bennington, 10am to 2pm
- 3 Cookie Walk, Smith Memorial Church, Hillsboro, 9:30-12:30
- 3 Rynborn Blues *KAT IN THE HAT*
- 7 Antrim Grange Meeting
- 8 First Lighting, 5:30pm, Touchwood Square
- 8-11 and 15-18, Northern Lights presents NOT THE KING, Peterboro Players
- 9 Rynborn Blues *LUTHER "GUITAR JR" JOHNSON*
- 10 Rynborn Blues *TWO BONES AND A PICK*
- 11 Keene Chorale Winter Concert, St. Bernard's Church
- 12 Christmas Craft workshop, Tuttle Library 3:30-4:30pm
- 12 Antrim Garden Club Christmas Party, 12 noon (Evelyn Perry)
- 13 GBS Holiday Concert
- 15 GBS vs Marlborough Basketball 3:30pm
- 16 Rynborn Blues *STOVALL'S PLANTATION*
- 17 Rynborn Blues *LOADED DICE*
- 19 GBS vs Murdock Basketball 3:30pm
- 19 Itty Bitty Story Hour, Tuttle Library 10am
- 21 Antrim Grange Meeting
- 22 Christmas Concert - "Music for Christmas" Presbyterian Church, 7pm.
- 23 Rynborn Blues *OTIS AND THE ELEVATORS*
- 24 Rynborn Blues *CLOSED*
- 24 Christmas Eve Services: Baptist, Congregation, Presbyterian Churches
- 30 Rynborn Blues *WEST END BLUES BAND*
- 31 Rynborn Blues *CAREY BELL AND TOUGH LUCK*

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DAVID R. LEVENE, M.D., F.A.C.O.G.  
DANIEL J. GELB, M.D., F.A.C.O.G.

TRACEY A. BOWMAN, CNM  
SARAH COULTER DANNER, CNM  
PROF. ASSN.  
OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY

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JOHN T. ROBERTSON  
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Gregory E. Goff  
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Budgeting - Tax Planning

# Antrim Community Calendar

## JANUARY

- 5 GBS - Caribbean Culture Exhibit - 5-7pm
- 7 Rynborn Blues *VICKI AND THE SOUL SEARCHERS*
- 9 Public Hearing on Proposed Town Budget
- 10 Woman's Club (Doris Bryer, hostess)
- 10 GBS vs Boynton Basketball 3:30pm
- 14 Rynborn Blues *BIGGS BAND*
- 16 GBS Donkey Basketball Time TBA
- 20 GBS vs SMS Basketball 3:30pm
- 21 Rynborn Blues: *ART STEELE BLUES BAND*
- 21 Odd Fellows fundraising dinner
- 24 GBS vs Jaffrey-Rindge Basketball 3:30pm
- 25 thru Feb 3, period to file for elective offices
- 26 GBS vs Monadnock Basketball 4pm
- 28 Rynborn Blues *CHILD SUPPORT*

## FEBRUARY

- 1 Antrim Grange Meeting
- 4 Rynborn Blues *RADIO KINGS*
- 4 Antrim Grange Meeting
- 7 Last day for submission of an article for Town Warrant
- 8 GBS vs Kearsarge Basketball 4pm
- 11 Rynborn Blues *TONI LYNN*
- 13 Public meeting for presentation of budget and warrant articles
- 14 Woman's Club (Martha Brown, hostess)
- 14 Antrim Recreation Tournament TBA
- 15 Antrim Grange Meeting
- 15 GBS Restructuring Meeting
- 16 Antrim Recreation Tournament TBA
- 18 Rynborn Blues *B.J.*
- 18 Antrim Grange Meeting
- 25 Rynborn Blues *LOADED DICE*

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